

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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UNCLAS ROME 7384

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: SALARIES FOR UN OFFICIALS

REF: (A) STATE 55997, (B) STATE 82906

1. NEWS STORY ON UN SALARIES HAS NOT ATTRACTED MUCH ATTENTION IN ROME. SOME LOCAL NEWSPAPERS RAN SHORT STORY. FODAG RAISED U.S. CONCERN WITH FAO ADG FOR ADMINISTRATION SKOUFIS, WHO NOTED USG POSITION BUT DID NOT COMMENT.

2. LACK OF REACTION IS PROBABLY BECAUSE FIGURE OF DOL. 75,000 OR MORE GROSS SALARY APPLIS ONLY TO FIVE OFFICIALS IN ROME (FAO-2, WFP-1, IFAD-2) OF WHOM 2 ARE AMERICANS. FAO STAFFERS ARE QUICK TO POINT OUT THESE ARE GROSS SALARIES. NET SALARIES ARE MUCH LOWER. DDG'S SALARY OF DOL. 76,000 GROSS IS DOL. 44,000 NET. FURTHER, SINCE THERE IS NO HOUSING ALLOWANCE AND EDUCATION ALLOWANCES ARE NOT VERY GENEROUS, MOST FAO STAFFERS DO NOT THINK SALARY SCALES ARE OUT OF LINE.

3. OTHER MISSIONS IN ROME ARE NOT INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UP ON THIS ISSUE THOUGH THEY SYMPATHIZE WITH U.S. CONCERN IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS.

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4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE AGREE WITH U.S. CONCERN, WE MUST NOTE THAT WE ARE HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING GOOD AMERICANS TO FILL TOP FAO POSTS AND THE FAO SALARY LEVEL IS CITED AS THE PRINCIPAL REASON. ALSO, IFAD, WHICH IS JUST STARTING UP, IS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO LOCATE EXPERIENCED, TOP CALIBER EXPERTS IN LAW, ACCOUNTING, FINANCE, AND AS LOAN PROJECT OFFICERS TO FILL POSITIONS AT D-1 OR P-5 SALARY LEVELS. GARDNER

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